

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The final Office Action dated May 12, 2006 and the Advisory Action dated September 5, 2006, have been received and their contents carefully reviewed.

Claim 1 is hereby amended. Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 11-14, and 17-31 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,356,318 to Kawahata (hereinafter "Kawahata"). Claims 5-7, 11-14, and 17-31 are allowed.

Applicants respectfully note the indication that claims 5-7, 11-14, and 17-31 are allowed.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kawahata. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration. Independent claim 1 is allowable in that it recites "wherein a contact hole passes through the protective layer and a portion of the gate insulating film having the storage electrode sunken therein, the pixel electrode is connected to the storage electrode via the contact hole, and the gate insulating film contacts a vertical side surface of the storage electrode." Nothing in Kawahata teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Specifically, the gate insulating film in Kawahata does not contact a vertical side surface of the storage electrode. This is true because the storage electrode in Kawahata is disposed on the gate insulating film. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, and its dependent claim 2, are allowable over Kawahata.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

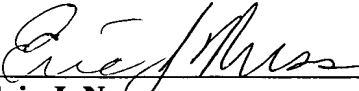
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the

filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 11, 2006

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